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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/670,003 | CHOI, SEONG-SIK | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Hargobind S. Sawhney | 2875 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the reply, terminal disclaimer and amendment filed on November 22, 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 29-38 and 40-57.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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1. The amendment filed on November 22, 2005 has been entered. Accordingly:
 - Claims 1-28 and 39 have been canceled;
 - Claims 29, 38, 40 and 48 have been amended; and
 - New claims 49-57 have been added.
2. The terminal disclaimer filed on November 22, 2006 has been entered.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The Terminal Disclaimer filed on November 22, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on the instant application, and of co-pending U. S. Patent No.: 6,626,550 has been reviewed and accepted. The Terminal Disclaimer has been recorded.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 29-38 and 40-57 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Miwa (US Patent 6,512,557 B1), Lee (US Patent 5,988,827) and Won (US Patent 6,046,785), does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose an optical system combining:

- a light guide panel comprising a projection protruded from the side surface; and the projection being thinner than the panel as recited in each of the amended independent claims 29, 38, 40 and 48; and the newly added independent claim 49.

The above-indicated combination, including plate-shaped body of the light guide having a projection protruded from the side surface of light guide, and the projection being thinner than the plate-shaped body of light guide, makes this disclosure unique. Use of a plate-shaped body of the light guide having thinner projection appears to facilitate secure alignment of the light guide in a mold frame during its handling and use. Fine alignment and maintaining the alignment of the light guide is functionally vital requirement.

Miwa ('557 B1), Lee ('827) and Won ('785) each teaches the light guide projection including an upper surface, a lower surface, side end surfaces. Each of Miwa ('557 B1), Lee ('827) and Won ('785) further teaches the light guide projection having thickness same as the plate-shaped body of the light guide. Neither combined nor individual teaching of Miwa ('557 B1), Lee ('827) and Won ('785) teaches the light guide projection being thinner than the plate-shaped panel of the light guide as claimed by the applicant.

Therefore, amended independent 29, 38, 40 and 48; and the newly added independent claim 49 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 30-37 are necessarily objected because of their dependency on the objected base Claim 29.

Claims 41-47 are necessarily objected because of their dependency on the objected base Claim 40.

Claims 50-57 are necessarily objected because of their dependency on the objected base Claim 49.

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5. Provision of the Terminal Disclaimer has overcome double patenting rejections of claims 29-38 and 40-48. Therefore, claims 29-38 and 40-48 are allowed.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S. Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ALI ALAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER